

THE HEALING TOUCH OF JESUS

MARK 8:22-26

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — MAY 15, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:22-26 ESV

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." 25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

SERMON RECAP

Key Points For Us Today

Characteristics of Jesus' healing touch:

- His Tender Compassion
- His Healing Power
- His Sovereign Timing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

Read Mark 8:22-26 aloud as a group and take some time to let group members share observations about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you all observe from the text.

1. Identify the setting, characters, conflict, climax and resolution of the narrative.
2. What do you notice about this man's friends by what they did? (Mark 8:22)
3. What is different about the way that Jesus healed this man compared to other examples where Jesus healed people? (Mark 8:23-25)
4. What did Jesus command this man to do? (Mark 8:26)
5. How would you explain or summarize this passage in your own words?

What does the passage mean?

1. In Jesus' day, what did people think about the origin of disabilities and diseases (cf. John 9:1-2)? In those days, how would devout Jews have interacted with people who had disabilities or diseases? Why might this have been so?
2. Read other accounts in Mark's gospel of Jesus helping people (cf. Mark 1:30-31, 1:40-42, 3:10, 5:22-23, 5:25-29, 6:5, 6:41-42, 6:54-56). How is this healing in Mark 8:22-26 similar to those other healings? How is it different? Why might Jesus have healed this man gradually?
3. Note how Jesus interacted with the man as He healed him. What is significant about Jesus



taking him by the hand? How did Jesus pursue this man (cf. Hebrews 4:15)? How is Jesus' tender compassion evident in this healing?

4. Note the process that Jesus used to heal this man. How is Jesus' healing power evident through His hands-on approach to healing? What are the larger implications about Jesus? How is Jesus' healing of people related to His mission (cf. Isaiah 35:4-6)?
5. This man was not completely healed instantaneously, but gradually. Why might Jesus heal people gradually as He touches them? Why might Jesus' sovereign timing often be unclear to us? How might His timing impact our faith? How is Jesus' timing perfect?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. How might Jesus have healed you physically in your life? How might He have eased your mind and healed you as you experienced hurts and emotions? How might Jesus have healed your relationships with others (e.g., marriage, family, friendships, coworkers, neighbors)?
2. Where do you currently need healing (e.g., physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually)? What questions do you have about Jesus' tender compassion, healing power, and/or sovereign timing related to these areas of need? Where might your sight be 'blurry', perhaps because you may not yet see what Jesus has done (or is doing) for you? How can you further entrust your needs to Jesus for His healing (either in this lifetime or in the glory of heaven)?
3. Where have you seen demonstrations of Jesus' tender compassion, in your life or in the lives of those around you? Who do you know that needs to hear about, see, and/or receive the tender compassion of Jesus? How might you more intentionally tune-in, see and touch those around you who need to feel Jesus' tender compassion?
4. Where have you seen demonstrations of Jesus' healing power, in your life or in the lives of those around you? Who do you know that needs to hear about and see His healing power? How might you intentionally tune-in, see and touch those around you who need to know Jesus' healing power?
5. Where have you seen demonstrations of Jesus' sovereign timing? Who do you know that needs to hear about and see His sovereign timing? How might you intentionally tune-in, see, and touch those around you who need help recognizing and trusting Jesus' sovereign timing?

LEADER NOTES

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CHURCH GROUP LEADERS

Dear Church Group Leaders,

You have likely heard that we have two very important votes coming up at MBC. If you have not yet read through our website, you can get more information at mcleanbible.org/resolution to learn specific details. We encourage you to read the entire page, read the process, and read the frequently asked questions as there may be information that will answer questions your Church Group members may ask. Please feel free to reach out to your Location Pastor, Associate Location Pastor or Regional Pastor with any questions at all.

This week when you gather with your Church Group, please remind your Church Group members to--

1. **Pray daily** for our church, our church leadership, and the upcoming votes;
2. **Attend and vote at two upcoming congregational meetings.** The first meeting will be on May 18, with a corresponding voting period of May 18-May 22. The second meeting will be on June 1, with a voting period of June 1-5; and
3. **Join us for prayer.** We strongly encourage all Church Groups to join us for prayer on May 27 from 8:00PM-12:00AM at the Tysons location.

A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We have an opportunity to move forward together in peace as a thriving, united church bringing hope to the nations, beginning right here in metro Washington, DC. But this vision depends on members' involvement in two important congregational meetings and votes over the coming weeks.

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Five individuals filed a lawsuit against our church contesting our election of elders last summer. While we are grateful this conflict is no longer a part of daily church life for most people at MBC, the conflict continues to cause harm and resolution is still needed in accord with God's Word for the glory of His name and the good of His church. Our Elders, Lead Pastors, Location Pastors, and Central Ministry Directors want to take extra steps to strive toward healing in our church.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Participate and vote as part of two important Congregational Meetings.

MEETING 1: WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 | 7 PM | ONLINE

Special Congregational Meeting | mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting

Our church family will vote on a "Plan for Lawsuit Resolution." Voting on this plan, as well as voting on new members, will be available electronically and/or in person for active members May 18-22.

MEETING 2: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1 | 7 PM | ONLINE

June Congregational Meeting | mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting

Assuming our church family approves the above "Plan for Lawsuit Resolution," we will vote on elder nominees who have the full support of church leaders as biblically qualified to lead our church family into the future. Voting on this recommendation, as well as voting on new members, will be available electronically and/or in person for active members June 1-5.

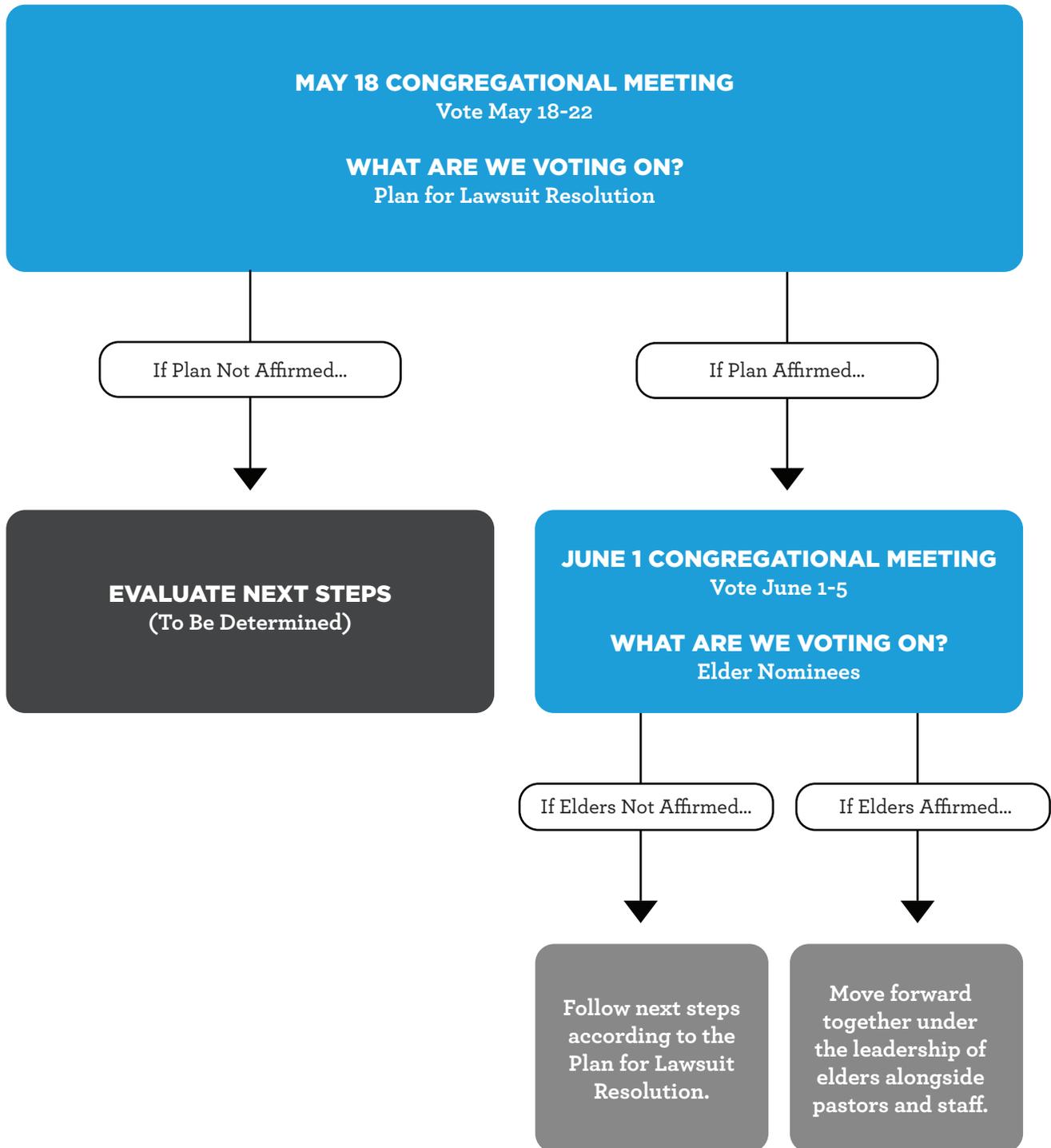


FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about all of the above, go to mcleanbible.org/resolution. We also invite you to speak to a pastor at your location if you have any questions about the above. We are committed to caring for you in your life, your family, and our church, and we would love to encourage you, pray with you, and help you in any way we can.



THE PROCESS



The chart above depicts what we will be voting on during our May 18 and June 1 Congregational Meetings, in addition to voting on new members. All active members who vote electronically between 7 pm each respective Wednesday (May 18/June 1) through 1 pm each respective Sunday (May 22/June 5) or in person on each respective Sunday (May 22/June 5) between 8 am and 1 pm at any of our church locations will be counted as present and voting for each respective Congregational Meeting.